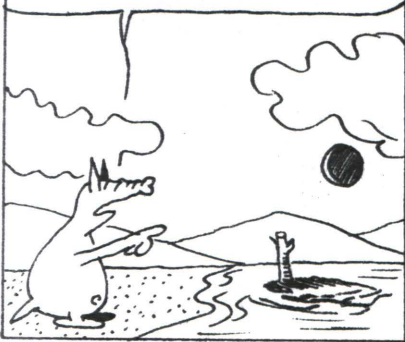
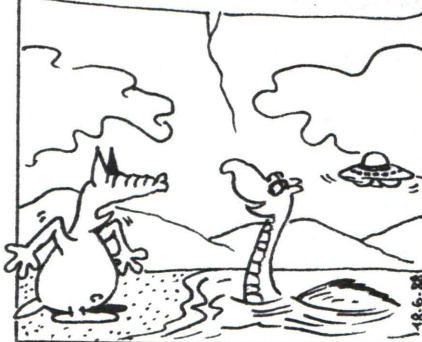


Look here: a sea-serpent!...  
 no, it's a plesiosaur... no, a  
 Zeuglodon... a Russian sub...  
 or is it rather a log? A bird...  
 a wave effect?



Depends all on your  
 cultural background,  
 doesn't it?



BILK 23/ July 1988 - sub:  
 DM 15 for 6 issues - U. Ma-  
 gin - Stuhlbruderhofstr. 4  
 6704 Mutterstadt - WEST  
 GERMANY

"...some kind o' frog-fish  
 monster that lived under  
 the sea...Mebbe they was  
 the kind o' critter as got  
 all the mermaid stories an'  
 seek started." - HP Love-  
 craft: The Shaddow over  
 Innsmouth

#### BEHEMOTH:

● China: In the Nanping region of Sichuan province a scientist discovered a "lost valley" in 1964. There are 108 lakes in Jiuzhaigou, an ancient part of Tibet. One of them, Wolonghai, has a meadow on its bottom that looks like a moving dragon, hence its name, Dragon's Lake. Changhai, the Long Lake, is the largest of the area. It's on top of a 10,000 ft mountain, 7.5 km long, 375 m wide and 103 m deep. You can look down 100 ft in the clear water, but there are no fish in the lake. It freezes in winter, and people say a dragon lives at its bottom to explain the strange noises that come from below the ice layer (a frequent folk explanation). On Oct. 12, 1984, Chen Xianhuan, director of the Institute for Environmental Protection of Jiuzhaigou (must be a scientist, therefore), observed a 3 m (10 ft) "miracle animal": it had a head like a horse's, and the body resembled a dinosaur or rhino. (Tan Manni: Am Ende des Tals ist Urwald, China im Aufbau, May 1988, p.34/35)

● Dragons: 1) China im Bild (March 88, p.36/37) has an article on China's first dragon. In June 1987 archaeologists discovered it in the ruins of the Yangshao culture, at Xishuipo, Henan province, in a 6000 year-old grave. It included three skeletons, and a 1.78m-modell of a dragon made of shells. 2) The Spiegel (20/1988, 16.May, p.172/73), in an article on Reagan's belief in astrology, mentions Lon Nol, the superstitious former head of government of Campuchea. When in 1972 Campuchean troops combating the Khmer Rouge, observed a horse in the sky, they stopped fighting, as this was the omen for the coming of a new ruler. Lon Nol let his secret service investigate. Two weeks later they delivered their explanation: it had only been a cloud. 3) Pursuit 79, p.129, offers the theory that Europe's dragons are based on sightings of surviving hippos in the south of the continent. Strange idea. 4) Roy Mackal has published a new book: "A Living Dinosaur" about 7 species of alleged dinos in Africa. I have not yet seen the book, but it is a large volume, and then, so is the price: \$ 20! 5) Newsweek (30 May 88, p.49) has a note on a survey of 2,100 students at 41 campuses in the US, taken from "Current Anthropology". It shows many students seriously believe in creationism: "53 percent in the southwest believed that cavemen battled dinosaurs, compared with 35 percent in the east." 6) Strange (Nr. 2, 1988, p.47) briefly mentions a dragon in Denton, Texas. 7) In Bilk 13 I mentioned the land dragon of León. There is a dragon legend from Asturias, the cuélebre. This is a large snake with a cock's head, the protecting spirit of the forests, though other sources say it destroys fields and fruits. (Enciclopedia Universal Ilustrada, Espasa-Calpe, Madrid, vol. 16, p.929, 1950)

● Bibliography: 1) Bob Rickard on Neurger's book (see cartoon), plus: the Storsjö hunt, cryptozoological conference 87: in Fortean Times 48. 2) According to the Inverness Courier, 3. Feb 1959, p.3c, Hamish Mackintosh and two others saw an 8ft headneck with a hump for 10 minutes off Brachla. (cf. note in Bilk 22) 3) "PM", a German magazine, in its June 88 edition, has an article on CZ, mentioning Nessie, dinos, and ABSM. Another German mag, GEO (Spezial) "Himalaya" has a note on the yeti.

#### ISIS:

- Annette Mimstedt, 40, of Paderborn, Germany, has created the largest china figure of the world: a 1.7m tall, 150 pound mermaid. It took her 11 months of 14 working hours per day to do it. Ms Mimstedt is an artist, but this one is not for sale and will remain in her home. (Welt, 28. Feb 88, p. 14)

#### LEVIATHAN:

- Spain: On Feb 26, 88, a 79-year old farmer of Ribadero, in the Gulf of Biskaya, encountered a sea-monster which tried to throw him out of his boat while he was fishing. It had a black head and made a snorting noise. Later the monster came ashore, and the villagers found it was only a seal. The animal made friends with a boy from the village and now plays the role of the dolphin of legends. It has become a tourist attraction. ("Auf einen Blick", 18/ 1988, p. 4/5)
- Bibliography: A new carcass from the Orkneys in Sept 1941 (shark?) in Nessletter 87, April 88. The irkuem, Strange Nr. 2, p. 24. Myself on Forstner's sea serpent, Strange Nr. 2, p. 4. a new sighting in Loch Eil, Scotland (some 10 now in my files from that area) - Champ Channels, 3/4, 1987.

#### KRAKEN:

- Greece: End of April 1987, Zakynthos Island - Gregory Pissas finds an octopus (sic!) with 9 tentacles. (Th. Vembos in Strange, Nr. 2, p. 26)

#### USOS:

- Mozambique: The Namibian, the non-racist newspaper of Namibia, reports (19 Feb 88, p. 9) that on Feb 11, a "boomerang shaped" object was seen in the sky 150 km out to sea off Beira. It was observed from 3 to 6 p.m., and went dark when a BOEING 737 approached it. A large balloon?
- Sweden: (Oh no - not again!) On Sunday, June 5, the Swedish navy fired depth charges and anti-submarine grenades at underwater intruders off the coastal town of Oxelosund at the country's southeast coast. (International Herald Tribune, 6. June, p. 4a) Same procedure off Gothenburg the following Tuesday. Same Tuesday, navy spokesman Kari Hansson told Reuters that "two suspected foreign submarines turned out to be underwater cliffs". Navy analysis concluded the targets were topographical irregularities on the seabed. "The Swedish navy has detonated underwater mines or fired depth charges on eight occasions in the past week", the Saudi Gazette adds (9. June 88, p. 4d) - someone should write a book about all this: It helps much to understand the hysteria at Loch Ness in 1933, or the Ufos.
- Bibliography: The Ley Hunter 104 (Winter 1987/88), p. 54, in an article by David Clarke on Pennine earthlights, a Ufo over the Torside Reservoir is mentioned. Same issue also has an article by Andrew Collins, on Mount Athos, Greece, where a strange pillar of light was observed over the Bay of Iveron in 980. Der Spiegel, 18/88, 2. May, p. 176-79, has an interview with Mr Gustafsson on mystery subs in Swedish waters.

#### MARINE LIFE:

- whales: 1) American navy seamen saved a sperm whale entangled in a net in the Indian Ocean (Rheinpfalz, 25 Feb 88) 2) A beluga seen in the Baltic off Rostock, GDR, some 4 - 6m long (Süddeutsche Zeitung, 4 May, p. 52e) 3) A school of 20 whales destroyed David Selling's 30-ft sloop "Hyccup" in the Atlantic. These attacks are extremely rare. (Rhein Zeitung, 15 June, p. 4e; International Herald Tribune, 15 June, p. 3de)
- Life in mid-ocean trenches at mineral wells: El País, 3. April 88 (Domingo, p. 22), on the Nazca Trench, and around undersea volcanos in the Caribbean: The Times, 6. Jan 88, p. 10cd
- "seal invasion" on Norway's northern coast (The Times, 15 June, p. 7a) - while at the same time seals in the North Sea are dying

#### FORTEANA:

- German pre-astronautics mag Mysteria (Nr. 67, 1/88, pp. 16 - 21) has an article by W J Langbein, a firm believer in Däniken (of the fundamentalist sort) - he describes the legend of subaquatic pyramids in Rock Lake, Wisconsin, spotted by divers repeatedly, the evidence is rejected by archaeologists.
- A rain of frogs and sand at Cirencester, UK, in summer 1987: The Times, 8 Feb 88, p. 5ab

That was Bilk 23, next one due in September. "El mar / sonríe a lo lejos / Dientes de espuma, / labios de cielo" (F García Lorca: Agua del Mar)